

National Republican.

W. J. MURTAGH, PROPRIETOR.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1877.

THE SEWERAGE QUESTION.

Although the proper drainage of cities has long engaged the attention of mankind, there are many questions relating to the subject which have not yet been satisfactorily settled. The introduction of sewers was a great improvement upon that system of open drainage which prevailed in even so important a city as London until the present century. Sewers, which have now been introduced into every city in the civilized world, have, however, brought with them a new class of problems, which now tax the ingenuity of municipal governments and civil engineers.

In cities which are in whole or in part built upon ground very little elevated above the level of the water, the best sewerage system is always more or less difficult in securing a sufficient fall to keep them completely washed out. Even with the best drainage the air from them is liable to become very impure and poisonous, and is thus frequently the means of great injury to the public health by the pollution of the air in the vicinity of the sewers.

For a tide-water city like Washington it is a matter of great importance that some plan should be adopted by which the matter of sewerage should be placed in the hands of a body of men who are not so much influenced by the passions of the day as the city government, and who are not so much influenced by the passions of the day as the city government, and who are not so much influenced by the passions of the day as the city government.

Great injustice has been done to Washington by the exaggerated accounts of the trouble which have been represented as endangering the life of the city. The fact is that the trouble which Washington has from this source is not greater than that which other cities have suffered from. London, for example, has suffered from this source for many years, and the trouble which it has suffered from is not greater than that which Washington has suffered from.

The English Government, in order to purify the sewerage of that city, adopted the plan of expending about seven thousand dollars weekly during the warm weather of the summer months in conveying the sewage into the river Thames, and the result was that the river Thames, sixty feet below the surface, was polluted by the sewage of the city.

Thus it will be seen that Washington is not the only city which has suffered from the discharge of sewage into the river. It is quite likely that the improvement of the river as proposed by the engineer commission in 1872 would greatly improve the health of the city. No complete relief, however, can be found for the evil except by adopting the plan of conveying the sewage by means of a tunnel to some point below the city, to be there discharged into the river, or utilized as a fertilizer.

It is a singular commentary upon the inefficiency of the Russian war department that it has sent its forces into the field with equipment inferior to that of the Turkish army. It is now said that the chief cause of the Turkish success is owing to the superiority of the weapons used. The Turks have Krupp and Borden rifles which are superior in range and accuracy to those used by the Russians.

The nomination of Gen. Grover C. Davis as the Democratic candidate for Governor of New Jersey has the merit of being a political surprise. He had not been seriously mentioned in connection with that position before the convention of the Democratic party in New Jersey. It is a surprise because he is a man of high character and high ability, and because he is a man of high character and high ability.

Although TWELVE, as a convicted thief and perjurer, is entitled to very little credit, many of the statements which he makes are sufficiently corroborated by other evidence and circumstances to show that they may safely be regarded as substantially correct. There is one great fact to start with which cannot be denied, and that is that TWELVE plundered the city of New York in an incredible short period of time of many millions of dollars. It does not require much knowledge of public affairs to determine that such enormous frauds could not have been committed without the assistance of powerful and influential allies.

The instrumentality through which this wholesale robbery was perpetrated was the charter which vested TWELVE, CONGOLLY and HALL with the legal power which gave them complete control over the city. It is quite evident that the provisions of the charter given to TWELVE, CONGOLLY and HALL were framed for the purpose of enabling the officials under it to plunder the city. The very character of the instrument raises a presumption that it must have been passed by either an ignorant or a corrupt Legislature.

The members of the New York Legislature who voted for that measure cannot possibly free themselves from the stain of corruption. They are all in the same boat. Some of them may be innocent, but all alike will have to suffer the consequences of having been found in bad company. Previous good character will not avail any of them.

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them, for experience in the case of the Credit Mobilier and the Pacific Mail frauds have prepared the public to believe that even the most prominent and successful men are subject to the infirmities of human nature. Any of them who may be, in fact, free from guilt will have to rest content with the consolation which the consciences may afford them, and the esteem of those personal friends who will believe to evil of them. In the estimation of the public their votes are sufficient to convict them.

The amount of legislative corruption which the testimony of TWELVE discloses is truly startling. Such revelations are not calculated to increase the confidence of thoughtful men in the practicability of popular government, for the great cities of the nation. Although it is not likely that such gigantic transactions will be soon again attempted as those in which TWELVE engaged, it is nevertheless true that the same species of frauds are being continually perpetrated on a smaller scale in nearly every city in the Union. Even the most honest and upright men, who are investigating TWELVE for sinister purposes of their own, is far from being incorrupt in practice. It is not for the purpose of the extent to which the TWELVE government did it, it is more for the reason that it has not a chance to do so, rather than any greater holiness of motive.

We are glad that Mr. TWELVE is on the witness stand, for although he is utterly bankrupt in character, his testimony will doubtless afford many clues by which a tolerably correct history of those transactions may finally be written for the instruction of the people. American people, the lesson which the extravagance and corruption of our municipal governments teaches is that there must be some limitations put upon the power of municipal officers to control the finances of such corporations. In 1866 the public debt of New York city was \$3,271,477. On the 1st of January, 1877, it had reached the enormous sum of \$13,000,000. It is easy to see that such a rate of increase must soon bankrupt the city. The ratio of growth has been scarcely less in two thirds of the cities of the nation, in consequence of which our municipal indebtedness has assumed such dimensions as to be one of the chief causes of the financial embarrassment which now afflicts the country.

It is vain to expect that the mere exposure of frauds will stop them. The methods of plundering the public are numerous, and new devices will be constantly invented to evade the requirements of the public treasury. As long as it is left under the control of those who are interested, filling their own pockets at the expense of the community, it will be a serious reproach to our form of government if we are unable to devise some means of securing the municipalities of the nation from such plundering. In the treatment of this subject all denunciations should be laid aside. It is necessary to assume as the fundamental principle of any real reform that taxation in cities cannot be safely left under the control of popular suffrage. Experience renders it very manifest that the municipalities of the nation cannot be safely left under the control of popular suffrage. Experience renders it very manifest that the municipalities of the nation cannot be safely left under the control of popular suffrage.

For the THEATRE, the public is invited to see the performance of the "Broken Vows" at the National Theatre. The play is a comedy in three acts, and is a very good one. It is a comedy in three acts, and is a very good one. It is a comedy in three acts, and is a very good one.

A popular reception was given Gen. McClellan in Fannin Hall, Boston, yesterday. The general was the guest of the evening, and was received with the greatest honor. The general was the guest of the evening, and was received with the greatest honor. The general was the guest of the evening, and was received with the greatest honor.

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The railroad companies in the West have recently been selling excursion tickets to various points of interest for the benefit of the inhabitants of the interior of the States. For example, round trip tickets have been sold from St. Louis to Chicago for five dollars, and from Chicago to St. Louis for five dollars. The tickets are valid for a period of thirty days, and are a very good thing for the people of the interior.

The Mayor of Louisville, in calling the President "Your Excellency," followed the precedent set him by the editor of the Bee in the following letter:

CHICAGO, Aug. 20, 1867.

DEAR SIR: Some of my friends in the New York Tribune have been very kind to call on me, and to ask me to call on you. I have been very much interested in the Tribune, and have been very much interested in the Tribune. I have been very much interested in the Tribune, and have been very much interested in the Tribune.

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AT THE CAPITOL.

IN AND OUT AMONG THE WORKING MEN.

LABOR EMPLOYED - APPLICATIONS - A CLEAN PLAZA NOW - IMPROVED STATUES - COLUMBIAN BASE RELIEVES - FURNITURE - BUILT THERE.

There are about two hundred persons in the employ of the Government at this time under Architect Clarke. They alternate. Each is allowed to work only half a month at a time. The number of applications from others is immense. The unskilled labor is remunerated at the rate of \$1.25 a day. Some of the gardeners receive \$1.75 a day.

THE PLAZA IN FRONT OF THE CAPITOL has been carefully swept, and is free from dust than it has been within the memory of the heartiest persons in the city. When a part of the improvements were in progress on the eastern side of the Capitol, and dust was flying in all directions, the people of the city were very much annoyed. The dust was flying in all directions, and the people of the city were very much annoyed.

Yesterday an artist was wiping the eyes of the Western hunter and embracing him in such an affectionate manner it was inferred that he had met a brother hunter. He had not, but he had met a brother hunter. He had not, but he had met a brother hunter. He had not, but he had met a brother hunter.

THE WALLS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES have been painted and the capitals of the columns thoroughly cleaned. A new carpet will be put down in the Speaker's room. It will be similar to that in the House.

The Sergeant-at-Arms' room will also have a new carpet. The documentary library of the House has been rendered better by the removal of the old carpet. The documentary library of the House has been rendered better by the removal of the old carpet. The documentary library of the House has been rendered better by the removal of the old carpet.

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FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

FINANCE.

NEW YORK, Sept. 19 - Money placed at 4 1/2 per cent. Exchange steady at 40 1/2. Gold at 100. The market for foreign exchange is very quiet. The market for foreign exchange is very quiet. The market for foreign exchange is very quiet.

THE FOLLOWING are the selling rates for Government securities: U. S. bonds, 10 1/2. Five-twenty, 10 1/2. Ten-twenty, 10 1/2. The market for Government securities is very quiet. The market for Government securities is very quiet. The market for Government securities is very quiet.

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ROOMS FOR RENT.

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A NICE FURNISHED FRONT ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, communicating with bath room, hot and cold water, also, other nice furnished rooms at 35 1/2 St. Street, near the depot. Apply to the proprietor, 35 1/2 St. Street, near the depot.

FOR RENT - NICE FURNISHED SUITES OF 2 ROOMS on first and second floors, also, a room on third floor. All modern improvements, including gas, water, and electricity. Apply to the proprietor, 35 1/2 St. Street, near the depot.

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